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CONNECTOR EXPRESS TO MOVE TO E-MAIL

To reduce costs, speed distribution and improve reliability, the *Connector Express* will shift to an all-electronic format beginning in May of this year. The bi-weekly newsletter will still include short, quick-hitting stories, but be delivered via e-mail to all recipients in a format ideal for cutting and pasting or for forwarding to colleagues. The Internet version of the *Connector Express* (www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/newsletters.htm) will change from a PDF file to an HTML version.

Over the next several weeks, WisDOT staff will contact all *Connector Express* recipients to confirm their e-mail addresses. For anyone without access to e-mail, staff will arrange for a fax version.

U.S. HOUSE LEADERS SEEK MORE FUNDS

The leaders of the U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee joined together last week to call for a 72% increase in federal transportation funds for the next multi-year authorization bill, although the Bush Administration argued for a more modest 19% increase.

The current TEA 21 legislation, set to expire on September 30, 2003, authorized \$218 billion from 1998 through 2003. T&I Committee chair Don Young (R-AK) and ranking minority member James Oberstar (D-MN) set a target of \$375 billion for the next six-year package. Young and Oberstar cited five methods to increase funding:

- ◆ Restore fuel tax purchasing power through an indexing formula retroactive to 1993;
- ◆ Redirect 2.5 cents of ethanol fuel taxes from the general fund to the highway trust fund;
- ◆ Examine ways to offset the trust fund loss resulting from a 5.2 cent ethanol tax exemption;
- ◆ Restore interest payments on unspent balances in the highway trust fund; and
- ◆ Address fuel tax evasion, a problem that costs about \$2 billion each year.

DMV MANAGERS NAMED

WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi recently announced the following management appointees for the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV):

◆ Bev Larson was named Acting Administrator of DMV. Larson served as DMV's Deputy Administrator for the past year, and has been with WisDOT since 1975.

◆ Doug Thompson will be DMV's new Deputy Administrator. Thompson served as director of the Bureau of Vehicle Services since November of 2001. He has been with DMV for 19 years, and has a total of 29 years of state service.

◆ Shiva Sathasivam steps in as DMV's Executive Assistant. He comes to DMV after serving briefly in WisDOT's Office of Policy and Budget. He also has prior state experience in the Public Service Commission and the Department of Corrections.

CUTSHALL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Carol Cutshall, director of WisDOT's Bureau of Environment, is retiring in mid-April. Cutshall served as the bureau director since 1990. She also served on several national committees through the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Transportation Research Board (TRB).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 31 / Apr 1 - Aviation conference, Middleton

Local and project-level meeting dates are on-line at www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/events/index.htm.

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